

LEGAL CENTER FOR DEFENSE OF LIFE, INC.

65 Madison Avenue
Morristown, NJ 07960
973-984-0725
Fax 973-984-3168
legalctr@aol.com
www.legalcenternj.org

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LEGAL CENTER FOR
DEFENSE OF LIFE

Fall, 2001

SPOTLIGHT

Reverend Dean Gavaris

Member of LCDL Board of Advisors

Reverend Dean Gavaris is the smiling, prayerful Director of Gateway Pregnancy Centers located in Elizabeth and Irvington, New Jersey, whose primary ministry is to the minority community in the surrounding areas. Dispelling the lies that minority and poor women need safe and easy access to abortion and that there should be no more "unwanted children," Dean says



Continued Pg. 3

that abortion destroys the future of Black America at the rate of 400,000 lost lives each year. To stem this appalling tide, the two Gateway Centers offer free pregnancy tests and practical assistance including education and emotional and spiritual support. Desiring "to share Christ with women in crisis pregnancies," all of Gateway's services are free.

Additionally, Dean has been a tireless pro-life speaker on chastity, abortion and post-abortion ministry in churches, schools and colleges, and on radio and television. He has trained scores of volunteer pregnancy center counselors for his own and other centers.

Dean received his Associates degree in Business Administration from Nassau Community College, Garden City, New York in 1978 and a Bachelors degree in Biblical Literature from Northeastern Bible College, Essex Fells in 1983. Prior to joining the Gateway staff in January 1991, Dean served as Executive Director of Archway Pregnancy Center in Elizabeth from 1986 to 1990. He is an ordained Baptist minister and serves on the national board of the nation's largest African-American pro-life organization LEARN. In 1997 he received the prestigious Erma McCarty Craven Award from LEARN and the same year received the Guardian of Life

Award from New Jersey Right to Life.

Over the years Dean has combined efforts with Legal Center attorneys to save babies' lives including successfully counseling abortion-bound Somerset County jail inmate, Sonya Jackson, and making a "midnight run" with LCDL President, Rich Collier, to deliver legal papers to prevent a distraught south Jersey teen-ager from being coerced into an unwanted abortion. A long-time participant in peaceful pro-life sit-ins at abortion mills around the area, on Father's Day weekend in 1989, Dean suffered permanent eye and shoulder damage as a result of police brutality at a protest in West Hartford, Connecticut.

Dean's Gateway facility in Elizabeth is located in the same building as abortionist, Steven Brigham, a frequent adversary of the Legal Center. Dean says that expectant mothers often come "looking for the door to death - finding instead the door to hope" at Gateway. Dean regularly prays for Brigham and other New Jersey abortionists, believing that "as a Christian, he is called to hate the sin and love the sinner."

Dean and his lovely wife, Lorena, have a 15-year old son, Jeremy. We are honored to count Dean as a friend and co-worker in our efforts to protect and promote the sanctity of life.